



# Alresford Historical & Literary Society

## Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025

### Next Meeting *Going for a Song* a talk on Auctioneering by Peter Raw 7.30pm Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February in The Methodist Hall

Between 1988 and 2010 Peter Raw's career as an auctioneer led to his organization and conduction of over 110 Country House and other auctions and the preparation of over 4000 Insurance and Probate Valuations in Hampshire and surrounding counties.

From 1985 to 1990 he was a member of the BBC Antiques Road Show Team. Throughout his career our speaker has given talks on antiques to numerous societies and organizations (approaching 1000). Moreover he has taken over 450 Charity/Fund Raising Auctions. Peter is clearly uniquely well qualified to introduce us to the world of auctioneering. We look forward to meeting him at what will be a fascinating meeting on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> February.



### Comments on our last meeting: a talk by our society's President, Peter Pooley *Some Reminiscences about Iceland and The Cod Wars*

Due to some 'imperfect communications' an error occurred (the passive voice always helps!), and Edward Fennel's talk on the Swing Riots will now have to be rescheduled for next year. At very short notice (about 2 minutes!) our President, Peter Pooley saved the day with some entertaining reminiscences of his personal Icelandic experiences.

Peter first talked about an email he had recently received, out of the blue, from a former acquaintance, Gudni Jóhannesson, Professor of History at the University of Iceland, who recalled that Peter and Janet had entertained him in Alresford about a decade ago and wished to resume contact. With characteristic Icelandic understatement Gudni mentioned in passing that he had returned to his role as Professor having served as President of Iceland for the last eight years! The Pooleys plan to entertain him again this year.

Peter went on to talk about his involvement in **The Cod Wars**, a series of 20th-century confrontations between the United Kingdom and Iceland about fishing rights in the North Atlantic. In the early 70s Peter was involved from the European side during negotiations. He described several serious but also amusing anecdotes. For example when an Icelandic gunboat skipper warned a UK gunboat to move the crew to one end of the ship in order that no lives were at risk when they targeted the other end of the ship! The wars were eventually settled amicably, to the benefit of Iceland which Peter describes fondly as country unlike any other.



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